

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 IGA-01 EB-07 L-02 COME-00

TRSE-00 OPIC-03 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /112 W

----- 033861

P R 151119Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9227

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: CENTO

SUBJECT: CENTO MICROWAVE SYSTEM AND OTHER POSSIBLE

U.S. AID TO CENTO PROGRAMS

REF: A) STATE 093976 B) ANKARA 1685 C) ANKARA 3247

SUMMARY: SUPPORT FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO CENTO MICROWAVE SYSTEM IN PAKISTAN COULD BE USEFUL AREA FOR ADDITIONAL U.S. ASSISTANCE TO CENTO ECONOMIC PROGRAM AND COULD BE ANNOUNCED AT UPCOMING CENTO MINISTERIAL MEETING IN ANKARA. HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN LONGSTANDING CHICKEN-AND-EGG DEBATE BETWEEN U.S./U.K. AND REGIONAL MEMBERS ON WHETHER DONOR COMMITMENT SHOULD PRECEDE OR FOLLOW DETAILED DEVELOPMENT OF PROJECT PROPOSALS. WE WOULD HOPE U.S. POSITION AT MINISTERIAL MEETING WOULD STRENGTHEN U.S./U.K. POSITION BY NOT RPT NOT COMMITTING FUNDS PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF PROJECT SURVEY. TENTATIVE CONCLUSION FROM MICROWAVE SURVEY TEAM INDICATES SYSTEM COULD BE IMPROVED FAIRLY READILY. IN ADDITION, U.S. MIGHT OFFER TO INCREASE CONTRIBUTIONS TO MULTILATERAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUND, SCIENTIFIC BOOK FUND, SCIENTIFIC SPARE PARTS FUND, AND/OR PROVIDE SHORT-TERM CONSULTANTS AND TRAINING

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR CENTO PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT STAFF. END

SUMMARY.

1. PRIOR DONOR COMMITMENT VS. PRIOR PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT.

A. FOR THE PAST YEAR, BEGINNING WITH 1974 ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING, THE U.S. POSITION HAS BEEN TO REFUSE TO PLEDGE FUNDS OR MAKE ANY COMMITMENT TO ANY CENTO ACTIVITY BEFORE FULL PROJECT DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE. THIS POSTURE HAS BEEN FULLY SUPPORTED BY U.K. ON THE OTHER HAND, PAKISTAN AND TURKEY HAVE INSISTED ON PLEDGES IN ADVANCE. (SEE CENTO REPORT EC/2311, FEB. 26, 1975 AND REF B, ITEM 1, PARAS 2 AND 3.)

B. THE ISSUE WAS RESOLVED IN OUR FAVOR AT 1975 ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING IN LONDON APRIL 8-10, AT WHICH REGIONAL MEMBERS DEVISED STEP-BY-STEP PROCEDURES AND AGREED THAT QUESTION OF SOURCE AND AMOUNT OF FUNDING SHOULD BE RAISED AFTER RPT AFTER PROJECT PROPOSAL IS SUFFICIENTLY DEVELOPED TO PERMIT RATIONAL DISCUSSION. (SEE REPORT C/22/D3, APRIL 15, 1975, ESPECIALLY SECTION IV, PARAS 10-14, AND REF C, SUMMARY AND PARAS 1-3.)

C. U.S. DELEGATION TO MINISTERIAL COUNCIL COULD STRENGTHEN THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE'S ACTION ON PROGRAMMING BY INSISTING UPON THIS STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH.

2. CENTO MICROWAVE SYSTEM IN PAKISTAN. THE U.S. DELEGATION COULD PROPOSE THAT THE MICROWAVE SURVEY NOW UNDERWAY, AS THE FIRST SURVEY COMPLETED SINCE THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE ADOPTED THE NEW APPROACH, BE CONSIDERED UNDER THAT APPROACH, I.E., IF THE FINAL SURVEY TEAM REPORT IS SIMILAR TO THE TENTATIVE CONCLUSIONS WE HAVE HEARD (SEE PARA 3 BELOW), AND IF CENTO AND PAKISTAN APPROVE, THE U.S. WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER FINANCING THE MODIFICATIONS SUGGESTED. (FYI: THE SURVEY IS TAKING PLACE ONLY BECAUSE PAKISTAN WANTED U.S. FINANCING AND THE U.S. REFUSED TO MAKE ANY COMMITMENT UNTIL DEFINITIVE DATA WAS AVAILABLE. END FYI.)

3. STATUS OF MICROWAVE SURVEY. THE CENTO MICROWAVE SURVEY TEAM PLANS TO WRITE ITS REPORT IN LATE MAY. HEARSON (U.S. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEMBER OF TEAM) REPORTED BY TELEPHONE FROM TEHRAN THAT THE TEAM HAS CONDUCTED PERTINENT TESTS ON THE SYSEM AND REACHED TENTATIVE CONCLUSIONS CONCERNING THE PAKISTAN PORTION. HEARSON REPORTS THAT CENTO'S RCA EQUIPMENT IN PAKISTAN IS NOT RPT NOT IN GOOD SHAPE. SUBSEQUENT TO COMPLETION OF THE CENTO SYSTEM, PAKISTAN OBTAINED AND INSTALLED NIPPON ELECTRIC COMPANY (NEC) SYSTEM, INCLUDING CONSIDERABLE COAXIAL CABLE MILEAGE, FOR DOMESTIC TRAFFIC. SINCE THE NEC SYSTEM IS GOOD, THE SURVEY

TEAM IS LEANING TOWARD RECOMMENDING THAT INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC NOW ON CENTO'S RCA EQUIPMENT SYSTEM BE TRANSFERRED TO THE NEC SYSTEM AND RCA EQUIPMENT BE MODIFIED AND INTEGRATED INTO THE DOMESTIC TRAFFIC SYSTEM. HEARSON SAYS THIS IS FEASIBLE. REQUIRED PARTS ARE READILY AVAILABLE IN THE U.S., BUT ONLY WILD GUESSES OF COSTS COULD BE MADE IN THE FIELD. HOWEVER, HE BELIEVED COSTS FOR MODIFICATION SHOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY LESS THAN THE COMPLETE UPGRADING OF THE OLD CENTO/RCA SYSTEM FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC. HE CONFIRMED THAT SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT REQUIRED TO MODIFY THE RCA EQUIPMENT COULD BE INCLUDED IN THE SURVEY TEAM REPORT. SUBSEQUENT CIRCULATION OF LIST AMONG U.S. SUPPLIERS SHOULD PRODUCE SPECIFIC PRICES. STILL TO BE OBTAINED WOULD BE ESTIMATED COSTS OF LOCAL LABOR AND POSSIBLE FOREIGN TECHNICIAN.

4. OTHER POSSIBLE U.S. PROPOSALS. THE U.S. DELEGATION COULD ANNOUNCE OTHER POSSIBLE ACTIONS AS FOLLOWS:

A. INCREASED CONTRIBUTION TO THE MULTILATERAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUND, BUT IN RELATION TO DEVELOPMENT OF SOUND PROJECTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NEW PROGRAMMING PROCEDURE. (FYI: U.S. IS CURRENTLY CONTRIBUTING \$105,000 OF TOTAL OF \$315,000. THE SECRETARIAT WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY PROCESSING MORE THAN A MODEST INCREASE UNTIL PROGRAMMING CAPABILITY IS DEVELOPED, BUT AN OFFER OF SOME INCREASE SHOULD SPUR ACTIVITY TOWARD THIS OBJECTIVE. THE AMOUNT OF INCREASE MIGHT BE DETERMINED BY SUGGESTING THE SECRETARIAT CONSULT OTHER CENTO MEMBERS AS IT DID FOR THE RECENT USG-APPROVED INCREASE OF APPROXIMATELY \$4,100 FOR MULTILATERAL SCIENTIFIC FUND. END FYI.)

B. INCREASED CONTRIBUTION TO U.S.-FINANCED SCIENTIFIC BOOK FUND (NOW \$30,000) AND SCIENTIFIC SPARE PARTS PROGRAM (NOW \$50,000) BY SOME AMOUNT TO BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SECRETARIAT AND AID. (FYI: USES OF THESE FUNDS ARE QUITE IN LINE WITH ECONOMIC COMMITTEE ACTION TO MOVE CENTO PROGRAM TOWARD RESEARCH AND PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS. END FYI.)

C. PROVIDE SHORT-TERM CONSULTANTS TO AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CENTO STAFF SELECTED FOR PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT.

5. COMMENT: IF CENTO CAN DEVELOP PROGRAMMING CAPABILITY, SPECIFIC PROJECTS (CAPITAL OR TECHNICAL) COULD BE PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REGIONALS' WISHES ON ARES OF COOPERATION, AND REALISTIC COST ESTIMATES FOR COHERENT PROJECTS COULD BE PRESENTED TO EXISTING FUNDING BODIES WITHIN CENTO OR TO MEMBER COUNTRIES. IN EITHER CASE, THE U.S. AND U.K. MIGHT AT LAST HAVE SOME IDEA OF WHAT COULD BE DONE SHOULD ADDITIONAL

RESOURCES BE CONSIDERED FOR CENTO. US AND UK HAVE WORKED CLOSELY IN PAST AND HAVE EXCHANGED VIEWS IN ADVANCE ON ALL ITEM TO BE DISCUSSED AT CENTO ECONOMIC MEETINGS. THEREFORE, WE WOULD HOPE EMBASSY LONDON (DENNIS SANBERG) WOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS ABOVE WITH OVER SEAS DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY PRIOR TO MINISTERIAL MEETING.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, MICROWAVE EQUIPMENT, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAY 1975
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ANKARA03854
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750170-1288
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750547/aaaabptt.tel
Line Count: 176
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 093976, 75 ANKARA 1685, 75 ANKARA 3247
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CENTO MICROWAVE SYSTEM AND OTHER POSSIBLE U.S. AID TO CENTO PROGRAMS
TAGS: EAID, US, CENTO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006